Calling attention to a matter of urgent public importance *re*: disturbances at Belgaum during Moharam Festival

Sri B. B. SAYANAK.—Sir, I call the attention of the Chief Minister to the disturbances at Belgaum during Moharam Festival on 26th February 1972.

Sri D. DEVARAJ URS (Chief Minister).—Sir, Some incidents took place at Belgaum during Moharam on 26th February 1972. It is reported that at 6-15 p. m., taboots were taken out from different parts of Belgaum City in a procession. Most of the processionists were heavily drunk and behaving in a disorderly manner. At Bogarves Chowk, three drunkards started quarrelling and when a Traffic Police Constable intervened to separate them, he was assaulted. Hence, these three persons were arrested, but released later. The procession continued further and when the processionists reached Khade Bazar Lane, they stopped moving further alleging that stones were hurled at them from the top of a building. When the procession passed Maruthi Temple, the processionists were shouting slogans. They became violent, tried to enter houses forcibly and assaulted the police when they intervened. In spite of the assurance given by the police that action would be taken against the alleged miscreants, the processionists insisted on breaking open the doors of houses and dragging the inmates out. A tear-gas shell was burst to disperse the unruly mob. Thereafter, the procession moved further and dispersed after performing the customary religious rites.

Due to the pelting of stones by the mob some street lights and window panes of buildings in Khade Bazar Lane were broken. Total damage to property is estimated to be Rs. 9,876. 11 Police Officers and 8 members of the public sustained injuries. Prohibitory Order under section 35 of the Mysore Police Act was promulgated in the limits of Belgaum City and Cantonment area for two days with effect from 12 hours on 28th February 1972.

The police have registered cases under various Sections of I. P. C. 44 persons have been arrested. Adequate Police arrangements were made and no incidents occured from the mid-night of 26th February 1972.

As regards certain specific incidents mentioned in the Calling Attention Notice, it may be stated that on the complaints made to the police, cases have been registered, and in some cases charge-sheets have also been filed. Hence the matter is sub-judice. In regard to the remaining cases which are under investigation, charge-sheets are likely to be filed soon. It is therefore not desirable to discuss these incidents at this stage.

Sri B. B. SAYANAK.—Sir, I want to make it clear that I am not against any community or any caste. But there is a rumour in Belgaum that there is an anti-national element in Belgaum. During the

(SRI B. B. SAYANAK)

procrssion, the processionists were shouting slogans like 'Pakistan Zindabad', 'Sheikh Mujibir Murdabad' and 'Pakistan Zindabad'. They are simply alleging that stones were pelted; actually no stones were pelted. The processionists have entered the houses of Hindus and beat them. One lady has been dragged from the House. There is an anti-national element in Belgaum.

Sri D. DEVARAJ URS.—This is not the way. Most of the facts which the hon. Member has mentioned are in the mind of Government and I think no useful purpose would be served by referring to this community or that community on the floor of the House. On the other hand, it might incite further troubles. I would, therefore, request that we need not refer to these matters now. I can assure the House that Government is aware of the existence of some anti-social elements particularly with reference to the incident that has taken place in Belgaum. Since we know the matter and since the Government has taken action and is going to take action, I suggest that any kind of argument or discussion at this juncture would not be useful.

1-30 P.M.

SRI C. M. ARUMUGAM.—The hon. Chief Minister has accepted that there are anti-social elements in Belgaum. May I ask to which party or group these anti-social elements belong ?

† **Sri D. DEVARAJ URS.**—That cannot be disclosed. Why should the hon. member worry to which party or community they belong ? To whichever party or community they may belong, they will be dealt with suitably.

Sri C. M. ARUMUGAM.—Who organised this procession ?

Sri D. DEVARAJ URS.—It is a relgious procession.

Sri M. S. KRISHNAN.—Can I take that the Government will be firm in dealing with the anti-social elements, to whichever community or party they may belong ?

Sri D. DEVARAJ URS.—I can assure the House through you, that so far as such antisocial elements are concerned, such elements who are by profession trouble-shooters and who sometimes are instigated by persons remaining in the background, all such persons whether they belong to this party or that party, irrespective of party affiliation and irrespective of community or caste they belong and irrespective of position they hold, the Government is going to take stern action against them.

Sri P. A. PAWASHE.—In the statement it is stated that the police have been assaulted on that day. May I know whether any cases have been launched against persons who committed assault ?

Sri. D. DEVARAJ URS.—44 cases have been registered so far and further investigation is going on.

Sri M. S. KRISHNAN.—Since a number of communal clashes have taken place in recent days in Belgaum, Gulbarga and Mangalore, may I ask whether the new Government would probe into this matter more deeply and find out the real reasons and see that effective action is taken.

Sri D. DEVARAJ URS.—So far as Gulbarga is concerned, I have already stated that an enquiry is going on. With regard to Belgaum no enquiry has been contemplated. I agree and I also feel it necessary that more vigilance is needed on the part of the Government to watch and find out who these anti-social elements are and see that we locate them in advance and be watchful over them. I think to that extent we have got to be very careful.

Sri B. B. SAYANAK.—The total damage is estimated at Rs. 9,866. May I ask the Government whether the Government is going to compensate the sufferers.

Sri D. DEVARAJ URS.—That point will be considered.

Sri M. S. KRISHANAN.—Will the Government take action to totally ban communal propaganda?

Sri D. DEVARAJ URS.—Yes. I think it is already banned.

Sri M. S. KRISHNAN.—Will the Government ban communal propaganda either overt or covert, or instance in the textbooks for students which incits one community against another. In the name of seculiarism such things are going on. Will the Government ban them ?

Sri D. DEVARAJ URS.—We can examine all those points and all steps which are necessary to avoid such literature or statements should be taken. I will look into the matter further.

Sri B. V. KAKKILAYA.—Will the Government prevent communal organisations making use of panchayat offices, school play grounds for giving lathi training

Sri D. DEVARAJ URS.—If they are panchayat grounds and public places, that is a matter for examination. I agree.

Sri B. B. SAYANAK.—The Chief Minister has assured Compensation in respect of Hubli and Gulbarga. May I know why it is not done in respect of Belgaum people ?

Sri D. DEVARAJ URS.—I have already stated that we will consider that point.

Presentation of petition by Sri T. R. Shamanna.

Sri T. R. SHAMANNA.—Madam Speaker, please permit me to present the petition signed by the unemployed Electrical Diploma Engineers in Mysore State. Since there are no definite rules in the rules of Business, I seek the assistance of the House in this matter.

MADAM SPEAKER.—The petition is presented.